

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) An image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

an E-mail transmitting unit, adapted to send E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

an E-mail receiving unit, adapted to receive E-mail data;

a requesting unit, adapted to add, selectively, information for requesting a message disposition notification to the E-mail data to be sent to a receiver by said E-mail transmitting unit;

a communication managing unit, adapted to manage transmission information of each of plural bodies of sent E-mail data; and

~~a control unit, adapted to update, in a manner capable of identifying whether or not a message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail to which the message disposition notification requesting information is added is received, the transmission information which is managed by said communication managing unit on the basis of an identification result as to whether or not said requesting unit has requested the message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail and a reception result of the message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail~~

a judgment unit, adapted to judge whether or not the sending of the E-mail data succeeded, based on the message disposition notification received by said E-mail receiving unit and responsive to the sent E-mail data to which the information for requesting the message disposition notification was added,

wherein the transmission information includes information showing a result of the sending of the E-mail data performed by said E-mail transmitting unit, and

said communication managing unit updates the information showing the result of the sending of the E-mail data included in the transmission information, based on a judgment by said judgment unit.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a selecting unit, adapted to select ON/OFF of an execution of said requesting unit,

wherein said communication managing unit manages ON/OFF of the request of the message disposition notification as transmission information for every sent E-mail.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~control~~ communication managing unit updates the transmission information ~~which is managed by said communication managing unit~~ to first information, showing that the message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail data has been received.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~control~~ communication managing unit updates the transmission information ~~which is managed by said communication managing unit~~ to second information, showing that the message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail data was not received within a predetermined period of time.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an output unit, adapted to visually output the transmission information which is managed by said communication managing unit.

7. (Currently Amended) An image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

an E-mail receiving unit, adapted to receive E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a detecting unit, adapted to detect control information which requests reply E-mail from the E-mail data received by said E-mail receiving unit; and

a notifying unit, adapted to notify a user of said image communication apparatus ~~of information which represents that the control information is detected by said detecting unit~~ that the E-mail data having the control information was received, based on the detection of the control information from the E-mail data by said detecting unit.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said notifying unit performs the notification before contents of the E-mail of which the control information was detected are visually outputted.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising an output unit, adapted to visually output contents of the image file attached to the received E-mail,

wherein when the image file attached to the E-mail of which the control information was detected is visually outputted, said notifying unit adds information indicative of the detection of the control information to a part of the image.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein when the image file attached to the E-mail of which the control information was detected is visually outputted, if the reply E-mail responsive to the control information has already been sent, said notifying unit adds information indicative of a completion of a response to the control information to a part of the image.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the control information is information for requesting reply E-mail indicative of a message disposition notification of the E-mail.

12. (Currently Amended) An image communicating method used in an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

an E-mail transmitting step, of sending E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

an E-mail receiving step of receiving E-mail data;

a requesting step, of selectively adding information for requesting a message disposition notification to the E-mail data to be sent to a receiver in said E-mail transmitting step;

a communication managing step, of managing transmission information of each of plural bodies of sent E-mail data; and

~~a control step, of updating, in a manner capable of identifying whether or not a message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail to which the message disposition notification requesting information is added is received, the transmission information which is managed in said communication managing step on the basis of an identification result as to whether or not the message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail has been requested in said requesting step and a reception result of the message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail~~

a judgment step, of judging whether or not the sending of the E-mail data succeeded, based on the message disposition notification received in said E-mail receiving step and responsive to the sent E-mail data to which the information for requesting the message disposition notification was added,

wherein the transmission information includes information showing a result of the sending of the E-mail data performed in said E-mail transmitting step, and said communication managing step includes updating the information showing the result of the sending of the E-mail data included in the transmission information, based on a judgment in said judgment step.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, further comprising a selecting step of selecting ON/OFF of an execution of said requesting step, wherein in said communication managing step, ON/OFF of the request of the message disposition notification is managed as transmission information for every sent E-mail.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein in said ~~control~~ communication managing step, the transmission information ~~which is managed in said communication managing step~~ is updated to first information, showing that the message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail data has been received.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein in said ~~control~~ communication managing step, the transmission information ~~which is managed in said communication managing step~~ is updated to second information, showing

that the message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail data was not received within a predetermined period of time.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, further comprising an outputting step, of visually outputting the transmission information which is managed in said communication managing step.

18. (Currently Amended) An image communicating method used in an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

an E-mail receiving step, of receiving E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a detecting step, of detecting control information which requests reply E-mail from the E-mail data received in said E-mail receiving step; and

a notifying step, of notifying a user of the image communicating apparatus of information which represents that the control information is detected in said detecting step that the E-mail data having the control information was received, based on the detection of the control information from the E-mail data in said detecting step.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein in said notifying step, the notification is performed before contents of the E-mail of which the control information was detected are visually outputted.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, further comprising an output step, of visually outputting contents of the image file attached to the received E-mail,

wherein in said notifying step, when the image file attached to the E-mail of which the control information was detected is visually outputted, information indicative of the detection of the control information is added to a part of the image.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein in said notifying step, when the image file attached to the E-mail of which the control information was detected is visually outputted, if the reply E-mail responsive to the control information has already been sent, information indicative of a completion of a response to the control information is added to a part of the image

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein the control information is information for requesting reply E-mail indicative of a message disposition notification of the E-mail.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer program which is stored in a computer-readable storage medium and which is executed by a computer of an image communicating apparatus connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, said program comprising:
an E-mail transmitting step, of sending E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

an E-mail receiving step of receiving E-mail data;

a requesting step, of selectively adding information for requesting a message disposition notification to the E-mail data to be sent to a receiver in said E-mail transmitting step;

a communication managing step, of managing transmission information of each of plural bodies of sent E-mail data; and

~~a control step, of updating, in a manner capable of identifying whether or not a message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail to which the message disposition notification requesting information is added is received, the transmission information which is managed in said communication managing step on the basis of an identification result as to whether or not the message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail has been requested in said requesting step and a reception result of the message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail~~

a judgment step, of judging whether or not the sending of the E-mail data succeeded, based on the message disposition notification received in said E-mail receiving step and responsive to the sent E-mail data to which the information for requesting the message disposition notification was added,

wherein the transmission information includes information showing a result of the sending of the E-mail data performed in said E-mail transmitting step, and

said communication managing step includes updating the information showing the result of the sending of the E-mail data included in the transmission information, based on a judgment in said judgment step.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer program which is stored in a computer-readable storage medium and which is executed by a computer of an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, said program comprising:

an E-mail receiving step, of receiving E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a detecting step, of detecting control information which requests reply E-mail from the E-mail data received in said E-mail receiving step; and

a notifying step, of notifying a user of the image communicating apparatus ~~of information which represents that the control information is detected in said detecting step~~ that the E-mail data having the control information was received, based on the detection of the control information from the E-mail data in said detecting step.

25. (Original) A computer-readable memory medium which stores a computer program according to claim 23.

26. (Original) A computer-readable memory medium which stores a computer program according to claim 24.

27. (Currently Amended) An image communicating apparatus for sending and receiving image information through a communication network, comprising:

an E-mail unit, adapted to send and receive E-mail via an E-mail server connected to the communication network;

a memory unit, adapted to store communication management information of the E-mail;

a communication management information forming unit, adapted to, each time the E-mail is sent by said E-mail unit, form communication management information of the sent E-mail and store the communication management information into said memory unit;

a judgment unit, adapted to judge whether or not the sending of the E-mail succeeded, based on a delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server;

~~an updating unit, adapted to, when a delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server is received by said E-mail unit, update contents of the communication management information of the E-mail which received the delivery status notification in accordance with the received delivery status notification~~ update information showing a transmission result of the sent E-mail included in the communication management information of the sent E-mail, based on a judgment result by said judgment unit; and

a communication management report output unit, adapted to output a communication management report indicative of the communication management information stored in said memory unit.

28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~claim 28~~ claim 27, wherein the delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server is a notification showing one of a failed notification, a delayed notification, a normal end of transmission notification, and a relayed notification as a transmission result of the sent E-mail.

30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~claim 28~~ claim 27, further comprising a discriminating unit, adapted to discriminate whether the delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server has been received by said E-mail unit after the elapse of a predetermined period of time from the transmission of the E-mail or not,

wherein if it is determined by said discriminating unit that the delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server has been received, said updating unit updates the transmission result of the communication management information of the E-mail which has received the delivery status notification in accordance with the received delivery status notification, and

said communication management report output unit outputs a communication management report in which the transmission result was updated as a communication management report of the sent E-mail.

31. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 29, wherein if it is determined by said discriminating unit that the delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server is not received, said communication management

report output unit outputs a communication management report in which the transmission result of the sent E-mail has successfully been finished.

32. (Currently Amended) An image communicating apparatus for sending and receiving image information through a communication network, comprising:

an E-mail unit, adapted to send and receive E-mail via an E-mail server connected to the communication network;

an analyzing unit, adapted to, when a delivery status notification returned from said E-mail server in response to the E-mail transmitted by said E-mail unit is received, analyze contents of the received delivery status notification; and

~~an error notification information output unit, adapted to, when it is detected by the analysis of said analyzing unit that the received delivery status notification is a transmission error notification of the sent E-mail, output error notification information indicative of a transmission error of the sent E-mail~~

a notifying unit, adapted to notify a user of said image communication apparatus that the sent E-mail was not received, in response to a result of an analysis of the received delivery status notification by said analyzing unit indicating that the sent E-mail was not received.

33. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said error notification information output unit further comprises a unit adapted to generate a warning sound as the error notification information.

34. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said error notification information output unit further comprises a unit adapted to print and output the error notification information.

35. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said error notification information output unit further comprises a unit adapted to display the error notification information.

36. and 37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A communication result managing method which is used in an image communicating apparatus which can perform a transmission and a reception of E-mail through an E-mail server connected to a communication network, comprising the steps of:

forming, each time an E-mail is sent, communication management information of the sent E-mail and storing the communication management information into memory means;

judging whether or not the sending of the sent E-mail succeeded, based on a delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server;

~~updating, when a delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from the E-mail server is received, contents of the communication management information of the E-mail which received the delivery status notification in accordance with the received delivery status notification~~ information showing a transmission result of the sent E-mail

included in the communication management information of the sent E-mail, based on a judgment result in said judging step; and

outputting a communication management report indicative of the communication management information stored in the memory means.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) A computer program, stored in a computer-readable storage medium, for a communication result management which is used when executed by a computer of an image communicating apparatus which can perform a transmission and a reception of E-mail through an E-mail server connected to a communication network, said program comprising the steps of:

forming, each time an E-mail is sent, communication management information of the sent E-mail and storing the communication management information into memory means;

judging whether or not the sending of the sent E-mail succeeded, based on a delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server;

~~updating, when a delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from the E-mail server is received, contents of the communication management information of the E-mail which received the delivery status notification in accordance with the received delivery status notification~~ information showing a transmission result of the sent E-mail included in the communication management information of the sent E-mail, based on a judgment result in said judging step; and

outputting a communication management report indicative of the communication management information stored in the memory means.

41. and 42. (Canceled)

43. (Original) A computer-readable memory medium which stores a computer program according to claim 40.